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DAHLIA NEWS

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HOW TO GROW BIG DAHLIAS

It has been said that no home is complete without a bed of dahlias and this is really true. They not only add beauty to the home but also do so with the least amount of effort. The man of the house will appreciate the fact that dahlias will not become a burden on his spare time. Just a little cultivating now and then will keep the bed in the best of condition.

Easy to Grow.

Probably more amateurs in the central states fail with dahlias than with any other flower, due to lack of knowledge how to give them proper care? Yet they are as easily grown as corn or potatoes if a few simple directions are followed carefully.

Dahlias should not be planted until late in the spring, until all danger of frost is past. They can be successfully planted even as late as June 25th. Dahlias are a fall flower, not a summer one. If planted too early they try to bloom in the hot summer spending most of their strength in doing so. That would cause the blooms to blast. The best flowers come from a quick, succulent growth helped by cool fall weather and heavy dews. Never plant dahlias in the shade of trees or buildings. They love sunshine and must have plenty of it to gain full growth and fine glooms.

Follow These Simple Instructions.

The large clumps of tubers dug in the fall should not be divided until you are ready to plant. Then divide carefully, SO THAT SOME OF THE PARENT STOCK IS LEFT ON EACH TUBER. (The sprouts come from the old parent stock and not from the tuber.) ONLY ONE TUBER should be planted in a hole six inches deep. PLACE TUBER IN THE HOLE ON ITS SIDE, never stand on end. Do not put any fertilizer or manure about tuber. If too fertile they will go to tops at the expense of your flowers.

Plant your tubers two feet apart each way. When the growth is six inches high, pinch out center of the plant. This will cause the plant to branch out at base making a short stocky bush, shading the ground completely, conserving the moisture, also protecting the plant from blowing over in storms. DON'T WATER DAHLIAS AT ANY TIME. (We wish that could be printed in boxcar type so all folks could see and remember it.) Every time you want to water them, DON'T DO IT. Go out and hoe them instead. Furthermore, all during the summer from time plant is up until they start to bloom, go out and hoe, hoe, HOE, stirring the top surface soil after each rain. Never allow any weeds to grow near them or close to plant.

Of course in the south and west plain states where crops are irrigated dahlias must be watered same as they do other crops of vegetables or flowers.

Here is a dahlia suggestion to remember. Do not plant dahlias in soil that has been in sod which has been turned under by spade or plow before planting. Few flowers will result.

Plant dahlias in soil that has previously been used for a crop of some kind, either flowers or vegetables. If the soil is heavy clay, lighten it by applying sand, ashes from the heater, wood ashes or soot from the chimney and mix this with the soil in spading. Few other plants produce so many flowers with so little care.

HOW TO CARE FOR DAHLIA ROOTS

Easy To Keep as Potatoes

The care of the dahlia root after the frost has killed the plant is a most important feature of dahlia raising. It is very often overlooked, because the average person feels that the roots are in a dormant condition and you cannot hurt them. This is far from the case, however, and the growth the following year depends entirely on what you do during the winter months.

As soon as the frost has killed the top of the plant, it should be cut off close to the ground. Never more than six or eight inches above the crown. The clump should then be dug up carefully, so as not to injure or separate. The dirt clinging to the clump should not be disturbed.

Never Separate in the Fall

The trouble most people have in dahlia raising starts right now. The first thing they do is to knock off the dirt and pull the clump apart to see how many roots they have for planting next year. This sort of treatment has but one result and that is failure.

The entire clump with the dirt still clinging should be moved carefully to the storage place. This can be the basement, fruit cellar or some other place where the atmosphere is right. The roots must not be kept in freezing temperature or where it is too dry. If the cellar is too warm, or too dry, they can be stored in boxes or barrels of sand or sawdust, but be sure the storage material is perfectly dry, so that rot will not set in and ruin the entire mass.

Place Clumps Upside Down

This seems like silly advice. At first thought it would appear that the top or bottom of the root or clump would not be affected when the roots are dormant. It happens however that there is an acid like sap in the stalk which runs out when the clump is upside down. When the clump stands upright this acid or sap runs into the roots and rots them. Little things like this have a great deal to do with the life of the plant the following year.

If these few simple rules have been followed you should have no trouble in keeping your harvest until the next spring planting season.

Dividing Clumps in Spring

The clumps should be started in growth so that the location of the eyes can be seen before cutting. This can be accomplished by putting the clumps in a warm moist place without soil for a short time.

As soon as the growth appears the clump can be cut apart with a sharp knife, in such a way that a piece of the stem with the budding eyes is attached to each root. This is very important as the root can not send out shoots by itself. Without these eyes the plant will not grow.

If the dahlia makes roots of excessive size, many growers recommend cutting off part of the individual root, because there is no advantage or benefit to the young plant if the root is too large and there is greater advantage in having the roots of uniform size.

One peculiar thing about dahlias is that the little varieties have extra large roots, while the larger flower types have very small roots. Sometimes these little bulbs are thin and apparently lacking in strength but it is just the way the plants run.

TULIPS EASY TO GROW

While we grow more than 150 varieties of Tulips in our test gardens, yet some varieties seem to do better than others that are admired by most visitors. In the Darwins the most popular varieties are: Pride of Haarlem, dark red. Farncombe Sanders, bright scarlet. Clara Butt, rosy pink. Rev. Ewbank, lavender. Wm. Copeland, helitrope. Valentine, blue violet. Zula, almost black. The most popular Breeders are: Louis XIV, purple and gold. Bronze Queen, bronze. Panorama, reddish mahogany. Cardinal Manning, purple and bronze. These varieties of Cottage types most popular are: John Ruskin, apricot. Inglescombe Yellow, sometimes called a yellow Darwin. Picotte, white with carmine edge. La Merville, a light orange, is sweet scented like the odor of crab apple blossoms.

Tulips are easy to grow. All their strength is stored up in the bulb so that drought or cold weather does not stop them from blooming. Plant in the fall and LEAVE THEM IN THE GROUND IN THE SAME PLACE FOR THREE YEARS! You do not have to dig them up each year unless you should wish to change their location. You can grow tulips in many places where other flowers would not bloom. They can be planted in front of shrubs, around small trees, in partial shade, around buildings, or in beds in your flower garden. The only place tulips cannot grow is in wet, soggy ground where water stands. Plant them eight inches deep and six inches apart for best results. After tulips bloom and the tops die down, you can sow flower seed or plant dahlias right over them and get two crops of flowers from the same space without harming or moving the tulip bulbs in any way. If your soil is a heavy, soggy clay, mix plenty of sand with it. Raise the bed in the center to allow for quick drainage of heavy rains. Never put any fertilizer or manures around, about, or over tulip bulbs—it is liable to rot the bulbs. If you are sure your soil needs fertilizer, put it on the year previous to planting. Do not be stingy in planting tulips. There are several reasons. They are not a bit expensive when you divide their cost over the three years of bloom you get from them. Remember that when your tulips bloom, no other flowers are in season. They have to carry the entire decoration of your home alone and will look much better if planted in masses. Using all one color around your home will make the best showing. More than two million tulips are planted around homes in Greater Kansas City and that sure helps to beautify the city in springtime. Are you doing your share to beautify your own home?

TULIP PRICES

Plant tulips in October or November, anytime before the ground freezes hard. We get a shipment of bulbs direct from Holland about October 10 and can offer you 152 varieties of Darwin, Breeder or Cottage types. Only 98c for 25 bulbs or \$3.75 per hundred. You can have them mixed or all one color, just as you wish. Order some at once before our stock is exhausted.

WE LIKE LETTERS

We are always glad to get letters from our friends and customers. Write us for flower information anytime you wish. We may be able to help you. That is what we are here for.

Here is a letter that makes dahlia growing a real pleasure. Thank you, Miss Richards. Letters like yours made us happy all day. The poem is mighty nice too. We are printing it in Dahlia News knowing that flower lovers like poetry.

Oct. 3, 1932.

Dear Mr. Payne:

Last night you gave me a dahlia, "Queen of the Garden Beautiful." To you, it was merely a gracious gesture, but to me it was an exquisite thrill. I want to thank you again, for I love it.

I also told you I would go home and write a poem to it. I am enclosing it with my compliments, to use or to scrap as you see fit.

Very truly yours,
(Miss) Jane Richards,
The Woodlea Hotel,
K. C., Mo.

Queen of The Garden Beautiful

In her pale yellow petals
Like a robe of velvet sheen,
Proudly, she reigns upon
Her throne of verdant green.

Graciously, she lends a charm
And beauty so complete,
All radiant nature pauses
To pay homage at her feet.

Mid gardens glowing with the wealth
Of Autumn's rarest flowers,
Queen of The Garden Beautiful
In regal splendor towers.

I think God must have paused to bless
Such beauty found in you,
To give you the glow of a moon-beam,
And christen you with dew.
—Jane Richards.

PEONY PRICES

We grow an acre of peonies for cut flowers for Decoration Day. They must be planted in the fall, never in the spring. Can furnish good 3 or 5 eye divisions in Red, White or Pink at 3 for \$1.00 or \$3.00 a dozen, postpaid. (\$20.00 hundred not prepaid.) We also have some special select varieties. Ask for our colored circular.

TRITOMA (Red Hot Poker)

Some times called "Devil's Poker," "Flame Flower" or "Torch Lily." It is from the lily family Hardy, but requires straw mulch during winter months. Produces orange color flowers on straight stems three feet tall. The blooms make wonderful fall decorations combined with oak leaves or plain garden asparagus. Blooms from August to killing freeze. Three plants postpaid for only \$1.00.

"Say It With Flowers"

Retail List Of Dahlia Varieties and Prices.

Send no money! Buy the Frank Payne way. We gladly trust flower lovers. We will enter your order, ship bulbs at proper planting time by mail, prepaid at our expense. A bill will be sent you after you receive bulbs and you can then mail us your check. Isn't that just as fair and square as can be? You couldn't ask for a fairer or better offer than that.

DECORATIVE

These dahlias are the largest size grown today, some are as large as dinner plates. They are double, with broad, flat petals.

Mrs. I. D. Ver Warner—Mauve heliotrope. Large blooms from early to frost. We have reports from almost every state in the Union that this variety does well everywhere. No garden is complete without it. We will plant three acres of them this year to supply the demand. Per tuber 50c; 3 for \$1.00.

Pride of California—Dark red. Large blooms, tall grower. Does well everywhere. Be sure to order some white dahlias to plant with this one. It makes your red dahlias loom up like a house afire. Only 25c per tuber.

Jean Kerr—Pure white. So far, this has proven the best white dahlia we have ever grown. We have tried lots of whites that were highly recommended but somehow they did not like our Kansas sunshine and dry weather like Jean Kerr does. Per tuber 35c.

Jersey Beauty—True pink. The best pink dahlia grown for cut flowers. This variety won sweepstake prize for three consecutive years at the Am. Dahlia Show. Monster flowers on long stems. (Note—The roots of Jersey Beauty are small, almost like rat tails. Don't expect large tubers. Seems like the smaller the tuber the larger bloom they have.) Price per tuber 75c each.

Kitty Dunlap—Cerise. Profuse bloomer of large size that keep well when cut. Per tuber 50c.

Amun Ra—Copper. Sometimes called "Sun God." You will like Amun Ra if you are fond of bright flowers and unique color. \$1.00 each.

Jersey Beacon—Chinese scarlet. Mammoth blooms on heavy stocks. You will admire this variety same as thousands of our visitors have each year. Per tuber 75c.

Mina Kay—Oriental scarlet. Our earliest bloomer. Large flowers on good stems. Very bright color, it almost dazzles you. Originated in Kansas. Our stock is limited so not more than two tubers will be sold to any one customer. Price \$1.50 each.

Halo—Sulphur yellow. An unusual dahlia that is hard to describe. It has a two tone effect in sunlight or in shade. We have noticed our visitors who rave over the beauty of Halo are usually real flower lovers and appreciate something out of the ordinary. Per tuber, 75c.

Oyster Bay Beauty—Dark Velvety red. Absolutely the best dark red dahlia we have ever grown. Blooms early and continues freely right up to killing frost. Large blooms that keep well when cut. If limited to only one red dahlia we would choose this one and be fully satisfied. Per tuber only \$1.00.

Copper Bronze—The name tells its color. Blooms very freely on long slender stems. Flowers are not so large but mighty pretty. 50c tuber.

Queen of the Garden Beautiful—Primrose yellow. My, isn't that a big name. Here is the reason. It originated in San Quentin prison in California by a prisoner, grown from seed. (The prisoner is now released and is a good dahlia grower.) Blooms freely with large blooms, 10 to 12 inches across. Per tuber \$1.00.

Yellow Duke—Canary yellow. 25c each.

A. D. Livonia—Deep pink. 25c each.

George Gero—Lavender pink. 35c.

American Beauty—Wine red. 50c each.

(One each of the above 6 varieties for only \$1.75 postpaid.)

POM PON TYPE

Baby dahlias less than two inches in diameter. Quilled petals like show dahlias. Excellent as cut flowers for table decorations or small baskets or bud vases.

ALL POMS ARE 35c EACH OR 3 FOR \$1.00

Catharine—Bright yellow.

Snowclad—Pure white.

Little Johnny—Bright red.

Kleine Dometa—Bronzy buff.

Arbutus—Lavender pink.

Fascination—Deep rose.

Wee Gracie—Lavender.

Little Loyd—Red and orange.

Janet—Bright orange.

Sunbeam—Rich red.

George Ireland—Light purple.

Little Jenny—Primrose yellow.

Jessica—Light red.

Billie Fletcher—Violet.

Lassie—Red.

Winnie Winkle—Lavender.

Fashion—Bronze.

Hazel—Light orange.

Bobby—Plum.

Alewine—Var. purple and white.

HYBRID CACTUS

These are fully double, with flat petals slightly twisted at the tips. They are sometimes called semi-cactus or informal decoratives. Some are almost as large as the decoratives.

Cigarette—Scarlet, tipped white. Good flowers on long stem. A good cut flower that keeps a long time. 75c a tuber.

Gay Paree—Orange bronze, with autumn tints. Produced in France. Blooms freely. 75c a tuber.

Papillon—Old rose, gold and apricot. This variety is an early bloomer. Large flowers with wavy petals. Reminds one of a beautiful colored butterfly. (Papillon means butterfly in French.) 75c a tuber.

Fort Monmouth—Crimson wine. A monster bloom. 10 to 14 inches across. Grows tall. One flower is a real bouquet alone. A prize winner at all shows. \$2.00 a tuber and worth it too.

Edna Ferber—Coral and old gold. Heavy producer of beautiful blooms nine to twelve inches across. The longer you look at a bloom of Edna Ferber, the prettier it seems. Only \$1.50 a tuber.

Kathleen Norris—True rose pink. Extra large blooms. Low growing plant. \$2.00 each.

Countess of Lonsdale—(Cactus) Salmon color. Blooms freely. Good keeper as cut flowers. 35c each.

We Wholesale Dahlia Bulbs

If you wish bulbs in lots of fifty or more, we will gladly quote you wholesale prices if you will send us a list of your needs. We ship bulbs all over the United States and Canada to florists and flower growers to be used for cut flowers, also to the large seed stores and mail order houses. Give us a chance to figure with you and we can not only save you money but furnish some mighty good bulbs too.

SPECIAL AMATEURS COLLECTION

If my grandmother asked me, "Frank, tell me the eight best dahlias that are easiest for amateur flower growers to grow," here is the list I would recommend.

Jane Cowl—(D) Bronzy buff.

Jean Kerr—(D) Pure white.

Maude Adams—(S) White overlaid pink.

Yellow Collosse—(D) Canary.

Jersey Beauty—(D) True pink.

Pride of California—(D) Dark red.

Sagamore—(D) Golden Yellow.

Bonnie Blue—(S) Violet blue.

That list if bought separately would cost \$4.05. As a special offer you may have them postpaid for only \$2.98. You save more than a dollar on this collection. Just order "Special Amateurs Collection" today and it will be sent at proper planting time. Your entire satisfaction is guaranteed or your money cheerfully returned. Isn't that just as fair and square as can be?

Jane Cowl—Bronzy buff and salmon shades. A monster flower that grows tall and looks you right in the face. Some attain measurement as much as 14 inches across. Price 75c per tuber.

Sagamore—Golden yellow. The best golden yellow dahlia grown for cut flowers. We just can't grow enough to supply demands of our florists in Kansas City. Per tuber 75c.

King of Commerce—Orange tango. Good cut flower variety. Not large but a wonderful keeper when cut. Per tuber 50c.

Avalon—Clear canary yellow. Large blooms on tall stems well above foliage. Per tuber 75c.

Marmion—Pure golden yellow. Monster blooms produced freely on long stems. You are sure to like Marmion. Per tuber \$1.00.

Champaigne—Pinkish chamois color. Wonderful stems, large flowers. Blooms free and keeps well. Per tuber 75c.

Yellow Collosse—Canary yellow. Not a large type bloom, but it is beautiful with its lacy like foliage. Per tuber 25c.

Kentucky—A sport of Jersey Beauty. Beautiful salmon pink. \$1.00 each.

Jessie Day—Old rose and gold. Long stems. \$1.00 each.

Monmouth Champion—Orange flame. Very large bloom, some are 14 inches in diameter. \$2.50 each.

Rose Fallon—Old gold. Very beautiful. \$1.00 each.

Eleanor Vandiveer—Rosy pink and lavender. Large blooms on extra long stems. An early bloomer. \$1.00 each.

Margaret Woodrow Wilson—Light lavender with reverse petals of phlox pink. Large flowers. Profuse bloomer. A low growing plant. \$1.00 each.

SHOW TYPE

This is the old fashioned ball or honey comb petal dahlia, the kind grandmother grew in her garden long ago. They are excellent for cut flowers, keeping much longer than most of the large decorative types.

Maude Adams—White, overlaid lavender pink. 35c each.

Bonnie Blue—Violet. 35c each.

Mail or Phone Your Order At Once To

FRANK PAYNE FARMS

Telephone Shawnee 1346

Shawnee, Kansas